

LAST EDITION
EXTRA
DEATH'S CRASH.
Two People Killed, Four Fatally Hurt
Under Fallen Walls.
A New Brooklyn Church Blown
Over Upon a Dwelling.
Realizing the Apprehensions of
a Night of Terror.

The Church Walls Said to Have
Been Improperly Supported.
An appalling disaster occurred in
Brooklyn this morning.
The south wall of the new Throop
Avenue Presbyterian Church, in course
of erection at the corner of Throop
and Willoughby avenues, was blown down by the wind and fell with a crash at 4.30 this
morning on the frame building, two stories
and basement, No. 298 Throop avenue,
which was twenty feet from the church,
and demolished it.
The ruined building was tenanted by
the Mott and Purdy families, numbering
six persons.
Richard Poole, a boarder, slept there
last night, making seven in the house, all
told.
Two of the seven were killed.
The other five were more or less seri-
ously injured, and two of them, at least,
are expected to die.
LIST OF DEAD.
MAY EMMA PURDY, aged eighteen,
crushed to death.
DAVID HUNTER, aged fourteen, mangled,
and throat cut by a beam.
THE INJURED.
Mrs. CAROLINE MOTT, widow, aged 75,
injured internally, and suffering from
shock. Death expected.
Miss SARAH MOTT, aged forty-five, in-
jured about the head and breast.
CAROLINE PURDY, aged seventeen, injured
about the head and shoulders. Death ex-
pected.
Mrs. ELIZABETH PURDY, slightly injured
about the body and suffering from shock.
RICHARD POOLE, aged sixty-three, slightly
injured about the head and lower limbs.
The seven unfortunate people spent a
night of terror even before the crash
came.
When the wind rose after dark last
night it shook the heavy walls of the
church, and their ominous rumbling
startled the tenants in the cackle-shed
dwelling adjoining.
Twice, members of either family went
out to take a look at the gloomy church
walls, but they seemed safe to stand.
About 11 p. m. the tenants went to bed
in fear and trembling.
Then the wind was shrieking and howl-
ing through the streets, at the rate of
forty miles an hour.
As the hours grew, the wind rose and
shook the new church walls to their very
foundations.
The creaking walls and banging shut-
ters awoke Mrs. Purdy at 3.30 o'clock
this morning.
She went to a window and looked out.
The moon was shining brightly, making
the streets as plain as day, and she
could see that the wind was blowing a
gale.
Listening, she thought she heard the
church wall nearest her rocking in the
blast.
Quietly arousing her three children,
who were sleeping in rooms adjoining
hers on the third floor, Mrs. Purdy bade
them dress, and then led them down to
her mother's apartments on the parlor
floor.
Her widowed mother, Mrs. Mott, and
the latter's unmarried daughter, Sarah,
were in bed, but awake, in the back
parlor.
Mr. Poole was asleep in the room over
the parlor.
Mrs. Purdy and her daughter Carrie lay
down in the bed with Mrs. Mott and
Miss Mott, but did not undress again.
May Emma Purdy wrapped some bed-
clothes about her, and sat up in a big
arm-chair between the two parlors.
Young David Purdy went into the front
parlor and lay down on a lounge.
The doomed people could not sleep.
They felt that something terrible was
going to happen, and yet they seemed
bound to the house.
Once Mrs. Mott suggested flight, but
the others looked at her in helpless per-
plexity, and only asked where they should
go to at that early hour of the morning.
The wind seemed to increase in fury
after 4 a. m., and the frightened people
got up and snuggled together, hoping
and praying for daylight and the end of
their night of terror.
The end came sooner than they ex-
pected, but brought with it the realization
of their worst fears.
Here is the story, as it came from the

lips of Mrs. Purdy, to an EVENING WORLD
reporter, after she had been carried, fear-
fully mangled, out of the ruins, this
morning:
"When the wind grew so fierce we
gathered in the parlors, huddled together
and praying alternately silently and
aloud.
"Suddenly we heard a sharp snapping
sound. Glancing about we saw a huge
rent in the wall of the house nearest the
church wall.
"A moment later several pictures
dropped off the wall. Another snapping
sound and, looking up, we saw a gaping
crack in the ceiling. More pictures fell
and the four walls seemed bending like
rubber.
"We jumped up and rushed wildly
about at haphazard, seeking a means of
escape; but before we could collect our
senses or see where we were going the
gale went out, leaving us in total dark-
ness.
"I dropped on my knees then and
prayed for succor. A moment later and I
heard a loud report like the sound of a
cannon, and remembered nothing more
until I recovered consciousness and
found myself pinned down under a mass
of bricks and a big beam that held me
across the waist.
"I thought I was dying. 'Way up
above me I could see glimpses of day-
light and heard the sounds of picks and
shovels as the firemen and police worked
in search of us.
"I cried aloud to them to let them know
where I was, and then screamed for my
children. Carrie's voice, from a distant
part of the ruins, answered me, crying:
"Oh, mother, where are you? What has
happened?"
"I tried to move, but could not, because
of the big stick of timber lying across me.
I shouted back to Carrie that the house
must have fallen in, and soon afterwards
the firemen got me and then her out of
the ruins."
The noise of the wall as it fell was
heard for blocks about.
John B. Purdy, a neighbor, but not a
relative of Mrs. Purdy, who lives at 135
Hart street, was aroused out of a sound
slumber by the noise.
His back windows are within sight of
the church and the ruined dwelling.
He jumped out of bed and rushed to
look out.
He saw a cloud resembling smoke
settling about the church, and he at first
thought it was a fire.
Within a few moments it had settled
through, and then he looked in vain for
a sight of the old-fashioned little house
that had stood near the church.
There was no trace of it, but a mass of
debris had taken its place.
Hurriedly dressing he rushed out and
around to the scene.
On the way he met a man who shouted:
"My God! It is terrible! They are
all killed!"
Shouting for help he turned in search
of a policeman, and meeting a milkman
he asked the latter to drive to the nearest
fire-house for the engine.
The milkman heartlessly refused, say-
ing he was in a hurry to serve his route.
Then, still shouting for help, Mr. Purdy
dashed through the street until he reached
17's engine-house on DeKalb avenue and
gave them the alarm.
His cries, however, had aroused others.
A policeman had turned in a fire and
ambulance call, and then called out the
reserves from the Ninth and Thirtieth
Precincts.
When Mr. Purdy returned to the
scene a large force of firemen and police-
men had already begun the search for
those buried in the ruins.
It was then breaking day, and the wind
had abated.
The dwelling-house had been crushed
and flattened down something in the
shape of a pancake.
The walls spreading out had smashed
the side wall of S. Adler's house, twenty-
five feet away, and bulged the wall in for
about six feet.
The Adler family deserted their resi-
dence in a hurry.
The rumor of the accident had spread
so rapidly that before daylight had fairly
dawned several thousand people had
gathered, and gazed in blank horror at the
gruesome spectacle.
Within the ruins cries and groans could
be heard.
The police, firemen and a force of se-
lected volunteers, with picks, shovels and
hands, worked like Trojans, seeking to
get at the unfortunates within the buried
walls.
The first dead body found was that of
May Emma Purdy.
She was found, crushed and bleeding,
at about 8.40 a. m., under the arm-chair
in which she sought her last sleep in the
dark hours of terror this morning.
At 9 o'clock the body of David Purdy
was carried out.
There was no sign of disfigurement
about him, and it is believed that he died
of suffocation.
When found his body was still warm,
and it was hoped he might still be alive.
Ambulance Surgeon O'Brien, who was
at the scene, tried to resuscitate him by
means of artificial respiration, but failed.
The lad was dead.
The bodies were carried out, they were
as taken into the houses of neighbors,
who freely rendered all the aid they
could.
Mrs. Mott and her daughter Sarah were
taken to Mr. Adler's house, which, it
having been pronounced safe, the family
occupied again.
Later they were removed to the resi-
dence of Michael Corbett, at 393 Quincy
street. He is Mrs. Mott's nephew.
Carrie Purdy was carried to the resi-
dence of Mr. Wilcox, at 188 Hart street.
Mr. Poole was removed first to Mr.
Adler's and later to the residence of his

consin, Henry Leggett, at 222 Columbia
Heights.
The dead bodies were temporarily
placed in the residence of ex-Alderman
Collins, at 301 Throop avenue.
Residents in the vicinity have had the
impression for some time past that in case
of a strong wind the new church walls
would surely go.
According to their belief, the building
was erected in pretty much the same fash-
ion that Buddenstien's buildings used to
be. William T. Lamb has the contract
for building the church.
It is said that the walls are only 12
inches thick when the low calls for 16
inches at least.
Contractor Lamb, when seen by an
EVENING WORLD reporter, emphatically
declared that the walls were sixteen
inches.
"Such a strong wind as blew last
night," he declared, "would sweep down
any wall situated as this one was."
The church walls are sixty feet long and
forty feet high.
Rev. Lewis Foote is pastor of the con-
gregation building the new church.
A constant crowd of people lingers
about the scene of the disaster to-day.
Where stood the little home of the aged
Mrs. Mott, her children and grandchildren,
is now but a heap of brick, mortar,
lath and plaster, with here and there the
end of a beam or rafter sticking out, and
now and then a piece of battered furni-
ture in the office.
He then called Gus Reid, and together
they went to the third-story front room.
There they found Miss Purcell lying on
the floor in her night-dress, with all the
doors wide open. She struggled violently
when raised. There was no smell of
drugs in the room.
Mr. Shannon then went to see what had
become of Mrs. Kniffin. He found her
on the bed in her room dead, with the
coverlet over her face. The bed was in
great disorder. He detected no smell of
chloroform.
This was about 8 o'clock. Miss Purcell
said nothing about being robbed. There
were no marks on her person of violence,
so far as he could see.
Dr. Shannon knew nothing, he said, of
any unpleasant relations between Kniffin
and his wife, or of any undue intimacy
with Miss Purcell.
Dr. Shannon summoned the police at
once upon discovery of the murder. He
denied having in any way interfered with
their investigation, or that he placed any
obstacles in their way.
The witness was then stood two
hours. He bore the ordeal very well, but
gave the impression that he was keeping
back something.
Mrs. Kniffin, the charwoman, was the
next witness, but her testimony, while
corroborating that taken before, de-
veloped nothing new.
Then came the sensational feature of
the day's proceedings.
After a long wait, during which the
spectators held their breaths in expecta-
tion, the young drug clerk, who was
foot in black, her face concealed by a
heavy crepe veil, slowly advanced from
the doorway. By her side and support-
ing her was Mrs. Dr. Palmer. Dr.
Kniffin's sister. Following them came
Dr. Palmer and Detective Leashy. Miss
Purcell seated herself in a witness
chair, facing the jury, and removed her
veil.
This she did with a hand that betrayed
nervousness of her own. Although not
so rosy-cheeked as a week ago, she
had a good deal of color in her face. She
looked calmly at the jury and glanced
with perfect composure at the witness
room as if seeking some familiar face.
A finer exhibition of nerve was never
seen in a court-room. Not a tremor, not
a sign of the least emotion, not a look
of fear. She was as cool and apparently
self-reliant as if engaged in the most com-
monplace duties of everyday life. "If
the woman ever comes to the gallows, she
will meet her fate unflinchingly," was
the whispered comment that went
through the minds of the spectators.
Coroner Bower administered the oath,
and asked the simple question, "What is
your full name?"
By advice of my counsel, I decline
to answer any questions whatever," said
Lawyer Channey H. Beasley arose and,
addressing the Coroner, said:
"An accused person, Mrs. Purcell, has
been tried for the murder of her sister,
Mrs. Kniffin. I think the law upholds me in
this course. While she has not been arrested,
ever since the terrible murder she has
been under surveillance. She has had an
officer with her at every turn, and she has
not been allowed to leave the house or
communicate with her friends. She is
now a prisoner of the county to all in-
tents and purposes, and I repeat my in-
structions to her not to answer."
The Coroner then asked a number of
affidavits to substantiate his claim.
The Coroner again repeated his ques-
tion, but the young woman again refused
to answer.
It appeared that this plan had been de-
vised upon by Miss Purcell's friends and
it is definitely known that they induced the
Coroner to call her to the witness stand
at that time to carry out their programme.
As soon as Lawyer Beasley took his seat
Prosecutor Livingston conversed with his
counsel and then made a sign to Arthur N.
Kniffin. The latter spoke briefly to
Detective Leashy, who at once stepped
forward and placed Miss Purcell under
arrest.
Then Detective Fisher rushed from the
room, down the stairs to the witness room,
where he found the witness, and he took
her to the witness room and placed her
under guard. He made him a prisoner.
The dentist and the typewriter were
taken into the Grand Jury room,
where the counts were read to them.
In which Detective Fisher swears that
"he has reason to believe and does suspect
that Miss Emma Purcell caused the death
of Mrs. Myra Kniffin, and that Arthur N.
Kniffin was an accessory to the crime."
This complaint was sworn out last Sun-
day. This was done so that the witnesses
could not have their objections sustained
if they made any against the officers ac-
companying them at the funeral. During
the counting the witnesses were read to
looked the justice straight in the eye.
She sat all the while with her left hand
on her hip, and her right hand on her
thigh. On her right sat Dr. Kniffin. He
was dressed in a black Prince Albert coat
and about his neck he wore a handkerchief
of, presumably, his own, which he held
tightly to his throat. In his white shirt bosom
he still wore the large diamond of which he
is personally fond. The dwelling and saloon of Charles Vio-
lette, 15 Alabama avenue, was also damaged
to the extent of \$200.
The theatre is being constructed by John
Riley & Son, J. D. and W. J. Bennett.
About thirty feet of the wing of the struc-
ture is still standing, and is considered
dangerous to surrounding buildings.
Then I will have to commit them to the

BOTH BEHIND PRISON BARS.
Dr. Kniffin and Miss Purcell Under
Arrest in Trenton Jail.
The Pretty Typewriter Refused to
Answer the Coroner's Questions.
(SPECIAL TO THE EVENING WORLD.)
TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 9.—Dentist Knif-
fin and his dead wife's pretty cousin, Miss
Emma Purcell, are occupants of cells in
Trenton jail. They were placed under
arrest last evening by Detective Leashy,
by order of Justice Matheson, and were
at once locked up. Excitement runs
high, as this move was unexpected at this
stage of the proceedings.
Coroner Bower resumed the inquest on
the death of Mrs. Kniffin at 2 o'clock
yesterday afternoon. Every foot of space
in the court-room was occupied by eager
and interested spectators.
Dr. Shannon was first called to the
witness stand. He said he had known
Kniffin for eight years, and became his
partner in July last. He told the story
of his discovery of the tragedy. The
office-boy came to his house for the key
Friday morning. He went to the Kniffin
house, and found all things in disorder in
the office.
He then called Gus Reid, and together
they went to the third-story front room.
There they found Miss Purcell lying on
the floor in her night-dress, with all the
doors wide open. She struggled violently
when raised. There was no smell of
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ture is still standing, and is considered
dangerous to surrounding buildings.
Then I will have to commit them to the

County Jail without bail," said Justice
Matheson.
"On, can't I go with her?" cried Mrs.
Palmer, as the officers were escorted to a
cell, while their lawyers jumped into a
cab and started out to secure a writ of
habeas corpus and have the prisoners re-
leased on bail.
From the Court-House Lawyer Barton
drove to the residence of Judge Scudder,
but he refused them the writ of habeas
corpus.
They then tried Judge Van Sickle, and
here again were refused. As a last resort
they called on Chief Justice Beasley and
sought their case. Chief Justice Beasley
when they left the Chief Justice, but they
did not have the writ. The Chief Justice
said the charge was a serious one and that
he would not interfere in the case in the
absence of the prosecutor and while the
Coroner's inquest was going on.
He promised, however, that they could
renew their applications after the ad-
journment of the inquest. If the jury
does not fasten the crime on the prin-
ciple, he will read the testimony and con-
sider their application for a writ.
Miss Purcell is comfortably cared for
in the juvenile department of the old
Court-House, and Dr. Kniffin is in cell
"B" on corridor No. 2.
The prisoners passed a quiet night in
their respective cells in the county jail,
which is in the basement of the court-
house. Mrs. Dr. Palmer asked permis-
sion to remain over night with Miss Pur-
cell. She has been a close friend of the
latter during her trouble.
After submitting to a very careful search
for any contraband articles she was per-
mitted to sit in the corridor outside the
door of Miss Purcell's cell.
It is evident that the prosecution fear
an attempt at suicide on the part of their
prisoners, and that they are taking every pre-
caution to prevent it.
Mrs. Palmer sat there until 11 o'clock.
From time to time the two women chatted
and talked. Mrs. Palmer was very tired
and went away. The prisoner got
what rest she could, but this morning she
looked wan and haggard. She is in soli-
tary confinement. No one visited her this
morning.
Dr. Kniffin is in a cell with another
prisoner. He got little rest during the
night, and he is very worn out and de-
jected this morning.
There are no new developments. Pub-
lic opinion has been satisfied by the ar-
rest of the people who have caused clamor-
ing against Chief Justice Beasley.
Lawyer Beasley and Farlow will renew
their efforts to-day to get a writ of
habeas corpus for the release of Dr.
Kniffin and Miss Purcell on bail.
The inquest was resumed on last night
in denying the application for the writ
of habeas corpus is commented upon
very favorably by all. Lawyer Channey
Beasley, who is the attorney for the de-
fense, had granted the writ last night, his
doings would have been subject to an un-
complimentary construction.
The inquest was resumed this morning
at 10 o'clock. The court-house was
crowded, if possible, even more than
yesterday.
Dr. Cornelius Shepard was the first
witness called. He is the physician called
in by Dr. Shannon the morning that the
dead body of Mrs. Myra Kniffin was
found.
He told of the disordered state of the
house. He said he found Mrs. Kniffin
stiff and cold. Her arms were extended
outward, and her head thrown back. There
were no evidences of any struggle.
He said that her face was swollen and
her hands were cold. He said he was
usually considered an evidence of chloro-
form having been administered. He said
he could detect no evidence of any chloro-
form. He said he did not know if it was
possible, but he thought it was possible
that the effects might have passed away.
He found Miss Purcell in a good normal
condition, as he examined her at the time.
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